

conclude that when the "sound and fury" are taken out of life, it is not going to signify more but less. It is with a sense of confusion and disillusionment that we find greater works of art proceeding from modern Russia than from the United States. Bryce and other keen observers remind us of the youth of the nation. There is some haziness in the common talk of the youth of peoples sprung as colonies from other races. There is a long civilization behind, the same history in this case which makes England old. But allow that the people is young—it is not quite in accordance with experience that genius should have so slow and difficult a birth. We look for the Sagas, the Homeric ballads, the Beowulf of the States; either these, or the maturer products of an ancient civilization. We cannot contentedly conclude that the struggle of political thought, the self-control, patience and fine purpose of the founders of the American Republic were less strong as root forces to generate creativeness than the racial feuds and animosities, the primitive struggles of the early Greeks.

TRADES' UNIONS.

I have alluded to the absence of mysticism in the society associated with the modern type of democracy. This absence may be further illustrated from the characteristics of the great labour organizations of the present day. The extraordinary importance of these associations in their bearing on the type of society which is dawning at the end of the 19th century, does not seem to have been fully realised, though Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb have pointed out how much weight the constitutional experiences of trade unionism will have in affecting the modifications, which the next generation, with the increase in the number of labour members of Parliament, will bring about in Representative Government. Beyond the sphere of this political influence, the ideas and sentiments of the working people in England, and I believe though to a less extent, in the States, are spreading and will be ideas of some dominance in general life in the coming age. In a large proportion of workingmen, I speak now especially of English conditions, the trade-union rather than the nation it is which arouses patriotism, and hero-worship is vanishing before worship of the group, the trade-union. Of all social